The Kinzie Manuscript's Implications for Wyandot (Iroquoian)

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Wandat Yanqhqhsentsih
Wyandot and Wendat (Huron), usually considered the same language, show striking differences in phonology attributed to centuries passing between Pierre Potier's mid-1700s culmination of Wendat work, and Marius Barbeau's 1911 Wyandot work. Potier, stationed in Detroit amongst Wyandot speakers, indicated slight differences between the Wendat he had studied and the Wyandot he heard through annotations to his Wendat manuscripts. The Kinzie manuscript, also from Detroit, and dating to only a generation or two after Potier, shows not Potier's slight differences, but rather almost the entire modern Wyandot sound system already in place.
Background

Iroquoian family tree

- Iroquoian
  - Northern
    - Lake
      - 5-Nations
        - Mohawk
        - Oneida
        - Onondaga
        - Susquehannock
        - Cayuga
        - Seneca
        - Erie
        - Neutral
        - Wenro
        - Wendat
        - Wyandot
  - Ontarian
    - Tuscarora
    - Nottoway
    - Meherrin
  - Southern
    - Cherokee
Background
Background

• Wendat (Huron)
  – Attignawantan (Bear)
  – Ataronchronon (Bog)
  – Tahontaenrat (Deer)
  – Attigneenongahac (Cord)
  – Arendahronon (Rock)

• Tionontati (Petun)
  – Deer
  – Wolf
Background

• Epidemics in the 2nd half of the 1630s killed half the Wendat population

• Simultaneously, wars with the Iroquois changed from hit-and-run to assimilation or extermination
Background

• By 1649 the Wendats were forced to leave their country:
  – Bear were adopted by the Mohawks
  – Deer were adopted by the Senecas
  – Rock were adopted by the Onondagas
  – Cord went east to join the French
• cf Shea (1855:197), Steckley (2004:9)
Background

• Some refugees fled to the Ottawas, the rest joined the Tionontatis

• The same year, the Iroquois defeated the Tionontatis, who, with the Wendat refugees, and later refugee Neutrals and Eries, eventually fled west
Background

- ~ 50 years of wandering in Wisconsin and Michigan
- 1701-1704: settled near Detroit, Michigan and Anderdon, Ontario
- First called “Wyandot”
- These people were the ancestors of all the Wyandot (but not Wendat) groups of today
Wyandot Documentation

• primarily Barbeau (1960)
• texts, notes, some paradigmatic data
• mostly handwritten
• fieldwork 1911-1912, Oklahoma
Wendat Documentation

• primarily Potier mss dated 1745, 1747, and 1751 in Fraser (1920)

Wendat Documentation

• Jesuit tradition: copy previous priest's notebook, incorporating his notes, into new book. Add own notes over time. Pass on to next priest. Repeat

• Potier copied Wendat manuscripts at Lorette mission, then added Wyandot notes while at Detroit, 1744-1781
Wendat Documentation
Example Source Codes

Potier: Fraser (1920) page, optional #entry

Barbeau:
• MB:B-G-6.9:11 Collection ms:page
• MB:Dict:252 ms dictionary:page
• MB1915:Classification:16 Barbeau (1915):page

Kinzie: page
“A puzzle here confronts us. The present-day Wyandot being different enough from Huron to be described as another sub-dialect, how is it that Potier while studying it should exactly reproduce the Lorette Huron characteristics without even pointing to a difference? Still, no doubt is possible, from tradition or historic records, that the Detroit and Oklahoma Wyandots are the direct descendants of those located in the vicinity of Detroit at the time when Potier was writing, and that their sub-dialect has not become materially altered since.”

Barbeau (1921), Review of Fraser (1920), p. 304
Potier vs Barbeau

Potier nn vs Barbeau nd *n

qanniann^i q.c. aller bien, etre bien 306,#49
tugand^i that is enough, well done MB:Dict:329

qann^diñionton plusieurs choses etre suspendues 307,#53
ya’garrand^i·nq’e’t the tail hangs on MB:Dict:185
Potier vs Barbeau

*ng / _yV

*iha / prendre sa refection entiere 252
ə’q’ə ə’ùŋgăhăy’ no: not: she eats MB1960:34:278:14-16

*ndiaθa / ils font une maison p409
à’nɔ’cɔŋgyâ’ I house make MB1915:Classification:16
Potier vs Barbeau

Potier 8 (w) vs Barbeau m

*w, *kw / % V

ho8endangaron  il a la voix rude 299,#2

huměndǎkàé‘  he talks slowly MB:B-G-6.9:11

hon8etsentīa  etre un jeune garçon... 417,#48

hǒmɛtsɛ́tǐ’a  boy MB1960:19:136:45
Potier Ø vs Barbeau w  *y / O _

hoatateχa son corps brule 183,#37
ehuwa’táte’ he will burn MB:Dict:159

ahoeññoňonha une arbre, un branch &c est tombé sur lui
uwεnôńde‘ tree down MB:Dict:007
Potier Ø vs Barbeau j (ž)  
*y / i _ V

hotïëéñõontate  *c’est leur clôture [de jardin], leur enclos 224,#42
ah doomãtíje’dóø  *they them caught MB1960:37:292:06
Potier vs Barbeau

Potier 8an (wå) vs Barbeau mę  *wę

hoatanda8an  il a un corps chaud, frais 277,#55
usähůwá’ta’də·mę’ again: he warm became MB1960:28:249:36-37

q’ta’k8an tirer de dedans 357
nakšůwá’ta’kwę’ now she took it away MB1960:17:131:23
Kinzie Manuscript

Wyandot. [Vocabulary, grammar and sentences.]

Manuscript, 200 pp. 4°, in possession of Dr. J. G. Shea, Elizabeth, N. J. A note appended says: “These vocabularies of the Wyandot and Menomenee languages appear to be in the handwriting of John Kinzie. They were sent to J. W. Gibbs, of New Haven, some years ago by Lieutenant Davies, of Fort Winnebago, since deceased. New Haven, September 12, 1846.”
Kinzie Manuscript

- based on: Cass, Lewis. 1823. *Inquiries Respecting the History, Traditions, Languages, Manners, Customs, Religion, &c. of the Indians, Living Within the United States*. Detroit: Sheldon and Reed
- words, sentences, paradigms
- handwritten, legible, inked with pencilled additions
- uses Cass' orthography, more or less
- Cass governor of the Michigan Territory, 1813-1831
Kinzie Manuscript

• Currently at Georgetown in the Shea Collection
• The appended note seems to be in Shea’s own handwriting
• 1846 date for Shea’s note, not manuscript
• J. G. Shea: 1824-1892
Kinzie Manuscript

• J. W. Gibbs:
• Josiah Willard Gibbs, Sr.
• 1790-1861
• linguist, theologian
• died in New Haven
• cf Wikipedia
Kinzie Manuscript

- Lieutenant Davies:
- Lt. Camillus C. Daviess
- 1807-1842
- Fort Winnebago and Fort Howard, WI, 1830-1838
- cf
  http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Amy/USMA/Cullums_Register/618*.html
Kinzie Manuscript

- John Kinzie
- 1763-1828
- Quebec City
- trader in Detroit by 1777
- moved to Chicago, 1802-3
- also Fort Winnebago
- cf Wikipedia
Kinzie Manuscript

- John H. Kinzie
- 1803-1865
- born in Detroit
- moved to Chicago at 1 year old
- http://chicagology.com/biographies/johnhkinzie/
“Two years later, when he was sixteen [CK: 1819], young John H. Kinzie was bound out by his father to the American Fur Company to learn trading, and for five years [CK: -1824] he served, learning the ways and language of the Indians and becoming an expert merchandising man.

The knowledge was of great use to him and to Chicago in later years. He compiled a grammar of the Winnebago language, and later of the Wyandottes. He was familiar with the dialects of the Ottawas, Pottowattomies, Chippewas, Sacs, Foxes, Sioux, and other tribes.”

“He was appointed private secretary to General Cass in 1826”
Kinzie n'd & Barbeau n'd

Eyarzhēēn'dunyouahn' *Spotted or Figured* p18
yaj'endâñōhka *little spotty* MB:B-G-28.26

Eyar’undēē’har *Leather* p18
ya’adīha’ *leather* MB:B-G-6.9:07

Yar’nōāndum’y *Pipe* p23
yănōndámē’ *pipe* MB:B-G-28.x

Yař’aiindar’ *Song* p25
yărēnda *song* MB:B-G-22.2:06
Kinzie & Barbeau

Kinzie n'g & Barbeau n'g

Yoon'geay' Duck p21
yó·nge' a duck MB1960:37:297:46

Tshēēng´uandar´ Black Oak p25
tsì´gwādá´ yellow oak MB:B-G-6.9:24

Hung´yar’hush He eats p41
hāgá·hac he eats MB1960:11:110:07

Skat´-Taymaing¨yar´arwēē¨ 100 p134
skatemę¨ngawe a hundred MB:Dict:406
Kinzie & Barbeau

Kinzie m & Barbeau m

Oōmaint’sar  *The earth* p19
𝑞𝑚ेंtsa’  *land* MB:B-G-6.9:01

Hум́ehntsaint́ēēar  *Boy* p23
हांmेंtsे́ ‘tí’a’  *a boy* MB:B-G-28.5:13

Oōmaýaymərn’  *Tobacco* p23
ointment’sa’  *tobacco* MB:Dict:089

Iiyooaoanmehskuandeekh  *(to) me is pleasing* p56
dāyè’mēskwá·di’  *that: I it like* MB1960:35:285:24-25
Kinzie & Barbeau

Kinzie zh & Barbeau j (ž)

Yarzhar’shar Arms p22
yǎjá‘ca’ arms MB:B-G-28.27

Yař’ayzhookh’tar Stone p24
yarįjú‘ta’ the rock MB1960:26:208:06

tēezhōoh’tēe as it is p124

War’zhar 6 p133
waja’ six MB:Dict:405
Kinzie & Barbeau

Kinzie ny & Barbeau ñ (ny) *y / i ñ Y

Eenyoon’tay She is alive p38
iñônt’e (to) her life MB:Dict:065

taa’eeen yëen’tayrëe not I know p212
të’ëntëri’ not: I know MB1960:29:259:67-68

dutee’n’yoo’oosta, marhaunhk’ the white p199
dëtiñ’mq’ the white man MB1960:06:096:14

Roan’yarn Blue p37
roñá’ iju’ it look blue MB:B-G-6.9:24
creaky voice

Oōskōō’ōōtar’ Human head p22
uskū’ta·ye‘ its head on MB1960:30:273:12

Tsōōōōt’īēē beaver p136
tsū’tā’ beaver MB:B-G–28.13:11

Arzhār’artōō’rayhaun’ I a body found p207
ājā’atūrēha’ I him found MB1960:02:064:06

n’dōō’ōōwargh’tsar the meat p208
dū’wā’tsa’ the meat MB1960:21:151:35
Kinzie & Barbeau

• Morphophonemic alternations of *y match between Kinzie and Barbeau, but appear to be missing from Potier (or at the least are not clear)

• Represented here by Y
Y > Ø / a _ V
-Yaʔt- 'body'
Sarar tar´tayehn´  Thou art burned p46
tsaá·’tatεe·  thou are to burn MB1960:23:169:61
cf
qata substance, chose vivante 446
Y > Ø / a _ Y
-Yéht- 'hit, beat'
Hōōmarn´ehntar´ They strike him p48
ǎhōmǎē´tá·nọ they him hit: all over MB1960:22:168:20-21
Y > ż / i _ V
-Ya?t-
Hootēēzh´ar tar´tayehn´ They are burned p47
ũtij´a’tāte their body burnt MB:Dict:261
cf
hotïeēññontate c'est leur cloture [de jardin], leur enclos 224, #42
Y > ny / i _ Y
-Yọ- 'arrive'
hootiń'yōānōāneh́' they came p199
tụtěhụtíŋọ́' there not: they have arrived MB1960:13:121:30-31
Y > w / u _ V
-Yaʔt- 'body'
Aāʰōōwarartar’tay He shall burn p46
ehua’táte’ he will burn MB:Dict:159
cf
hoatatecha son corps brule 183,#37
Y > m / u _ Y
-Yeht- 'hit, beat'
Hōō’mehnť ēē He struck him p50
sāyumę́ti’ he anybody hits (with arrow) MB:Dict:275
Implications

- The differences between Potier’s and Barbeau’s transcriptions do not reflect 160 years of change.
- They were already in place by Kinzie’s time, only a couple of generations after Potier.
- Were the changes that rapid?
- Or were they pre-existing?
Rapid Change?

• Significant changes in a short time are not unheard of in Iroquoian
• Onondaga r-loss & related changes:
• "From the word lists, it is clear that all of the changes must have occurred within about fifty years or less, between the end of the eighteenth century and 1852."
  (Mithun 1981:17-18)
Rapid Change?

• However, Onondaga r-loss essentially a borrowing from Seneca and Cayuga
• Changes between Wendat and Wyandot not borrowing
  – Or if so, from where?
Pre-Existing Changes?

• from Barbeau's (1921) Review of Fraser (1920), p. 304: "The most likely presumption is that Potier's work is largely, if not exclusively, that of a compiler writing up and classifying the materials of his predecessors, which were available at the Lorette Huron mission. Thus as an American residing in England might retain his native accent, Potier quite possibly may, at Detroit, have persevered in the notions acquired while in training at Lorette, and worked upon Lorette manuscripts without seriously attempting to fit them to his Detroit environment."
Pre-Existing Changes?

• or Wendat and Wyandot are sisters, not mother and daughter
• cf reflexes of *y already lost in Wendat but still present in Wyandot
• cf Wendat innovations like *ę > q / w _ that did not occur in Wyandot
Pre-Existing Changes?

• or there were multiple Wyandot dialects in Detroit
• Potier recorded one, Kinzie another
• cf Weiser’s vocabulary of Wanat
• Weiser, Conrad. 1756. Table of the Names of Numbers of Several Indian Nations. *Gentleman's Magazine* 26.386
Pre-Existing Changes?

hanack 4
hे·da‘k the fourth MB:Dict:407

hanack-towachson 40
εⁿda‘kiwa‘sẹ forty MB:Dict:405

wanat [Wyandot]
wá·ndat villagers (Wyandots) MB1960:38:303:39
Tool for Revitalization

• Kinzie ms points out an issue in revitalization from archival materials: names can be misleading
• old materials not necessarily the same dialect or language that the name implies today
Tool for Revitalization

- old materials may contain a plethora of words and especially phrases not found in other works:


- Wyandot labels for display objects required. Several undocumented in more modern sources, but present in Kinzie ms
Tool for Revitalization

• Kinzie ms contains constructions not directly elicited elsewhere, in context, including
  • comparison of adjectives
  • if-then statements
  • complex sentences / clause combining
  • WH-questions
Tool for Revitalization

• Already been put to use in language lessons
References

• Barbeau, Marius. 1921. Review of Fraser (1920). *Canadian Historical Review* 2. 299-305.
• Cass, Lewis. 1823. *Inquiries respecting the history, traditions, languages, manners, customs, religion, &c. of the Indians, living within the United States*. Detroit: Sheldon and Reed.
• Kinzie, John. N.d. John Gilmary Shea Papers: Box #8 Folder #11, Georgetown University Library Special Collections Research Center, Washington, D.C.
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